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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/813,288	CASTLE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Travis R. Hunnings	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 2 June 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 23-40.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin LeMond on 10 August 2006 and 24 August 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

32. (New) The metal detector of claim ~~30~~ 31, wherein the sensor panels may be stored in the top cross member when the metal detector is disassembled.

33. (New) The metal detector of claim ~~30~~ 31 wherein the metal detector comprises three transmitter sensor panels and three receiver sensor panels.

34. (New) The metal detector of claim ~~30~~ 31 wherein each sensor panel comprises windowed areas.

38. (New) The method of claim ~~36~~ 31 wherein the power is provided via at least one battery.

39. (New) The method of claim ~~36~~ 31 wherein the sensor panels are provided stored in the top cross member.

40. (New) The method of claim ~~36~~ 31 wherein the power is provided with a solar

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power system.

41. (New) A modular walk-through metal detector comprising:

a plurality of separate interchangeable sensor panels electrically coupled to each other and arranged one above the other along two separate sides to form two side walls; and

at least one top cross-member that engages each side wall;

wherein the sensor panels ~~may be stored~~ are storable in the top cross member when the metal detector is disassembled.

42. (New) A modular walk-through metal detector comprising:

a base comprising at least two base members;

at least four separate and interchangeable sensor panels electrically coupled to each other and arranged above the at least two base members to form two side walls, a bottom sensor panel of each side wall being adjacent a corresponding one of the at least two base members; and

a top cross-member that engages each side wall;

wherein the sensor panels ~~may be stored~~ are storable in the top cross-member.

43. (New) A method of detecting metal, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of sensor panels;

providing a base comprising at least one base member;

providing a top cross member;

providing the plurality of sensor panels stored in the top cross member;

assembling two side walls each comprising at least two sensor panels such that the sensor panels are in electrical communication;

coupling the side walls to the base;

coupling the side walls to the top cross member to provide an assembled modular metal detector;

providing power to the metal detector; and

passing an object to be scanned through the metal detector;

~~wherein the sensor panels are provided stored in the top cross member.~~

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 23-43 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not disclose nor teach a metal detector or a method of detecting metal wherein the walk-through metal detector is made up of a plurality of separate and interchangeable sensor panels (both transmitter and receiver) that are coupled together to form the walk-through portion of the metal detector wherein a processor controls the operation of the metal detector and is configured to determine a position of each transmitter and receiver sensor panel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Travis R. Hunnings whose telephone number is (571) 272-3118. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu can be reached on (571) 272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TRH


DANIEL WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
09/05/06